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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Resistance and Unrest	DATE DISTR. 29 April 1955
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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 28 Feb. 1955

SUBJECT Resistance and Unrest

NO. OF PAGES 4

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Organized Resistance

1. [REDACTED] 50X1

from time to time the newspapers and radio gave accounts of individuals who had been arrested as enemies of the state because they belonged to organized resistance groups. None of these accounts elaborated on the organizations.

Occasionally, the press would carry articles to the effect that some students and small shop owners were members of organized resistance groups and that they were to "fall in line". There would also be accounts of the apprehension of foreign "agents" who had allegedly been sent by the Western powers to carry out acts of sabotage. Usually, these articles consisted chiefly of glowing accounts of the apprehension of the "agents" by the people's police but gave few other details.

2. [REDACTED] the mission of any organized resistance groups would be to disrupt the Party and cause as much harm and embarrassment to the régime as they could. [REDACTED] if there were such groups they would probably work together with each other since they had a common cause. 50X1

Indications of Passive Resistance

3. [REDACTED] occasionally Czechoslovak workers would cause slow-downs; but these were quickly quelled. [REDACTED] Absenteeism was threatened with long prison sentences, and there were strong regulations against any forms of 50X1

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resistance. People engaged in any type of resistance were automatically classified "enemies of the state".

#### Popular Opposition to Governmental Restrictions and Shortages

- 50X1 4. [ ] the Czechoslovak people were mainly opposed to high prices, the lack of consumer goods, and the shabby quality of the goods that were available. [ ] since the currency reforms in 1953 wages had not been able to keep pace with prices and that there was a constant shortage of meat, particularly beef. 50X1
5. Another factor generating popular opposition was the great amount of heavy industrial activity in Czechoslovakia which left the country with less consumer goods for its people. The agricultural reforms were very unpopular.
- 50X1 6. [ ] factory workers were still pressured into buying government bonds and tickets to various Communist functions. Sunday work brigades still existed but [ ] believed 50X1 that there were fewer [ ]
- 50X1 7. [ ] since the Communist Party was all-powerful in Czechoslovakia, any political activity outside of the CP would have to be carried on clandestinely. [ ] in general, 50X1 the Czechoslovak people were afraid to say much about politics.
- 50X1 8. [ ] the people were well aware that the regime newspapers printed nothing but lies and that the radio broadcasts were only Communist propaganda. They were also aware that the borders of Czechoslovakia were closed. In fact, they joked among themselves about this and said that if the borders were left open for one week, Czechoslovakia's cities would become ghost towns inhabited by a few Communist "spooks".

#### Censorship

9. Censorship of mail in Czechoslovakia seemed to have slackened. Prior to the time of Stalin's death, mail to the West had to be brought opened to the post office and numbered. Many times the postal authorities refused it outright. Since the time of Stalin's death, mail to the West could be brought to the post office in a sealed envelope and even dropped in a mailbox. [ ] 50X1 mail to the West was only spot-censored [ ] 50X1 However, [ ] newspaper and radio material was still heavily censored.

10.

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#### Manifestations of Resistance by Religious Groups

- 50X1 11. [ ] there was no special manifestation or resistance by any religious groups. It seemed to him that the Communist Party and the churches adhered to a mutual non-interference policy.
- 50X1 12. [ ] did not know of any law which prevented people from attending church. The Communist Party issued propaganda which stated that a good Party member did not need the church; he only needed the Party. He did not notice any unusual decreases or increases in church attendance and believed that the people who had gone to church before continued to do so under the Communist régime.

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Military Desertions

50X13. [ ] no cases of defections from the Czechoslovak armed forces. Such desertions were punishable by death [ ]  
 50X1 [ ] and [ ] they were rare.

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The Régime's Effect on Youth

50X14. [ ] the régime had not been in power long enough for its program to have great effect on the youth of Czechoslovakia. Although the régime used every conceivable method to get young people to join its organization, parents still maintained a considerable amount of control over their children.

Relocation of the Population

15. In addition to the mass deportations of German segments of the population, which had taken place in previous years, [ ]  
 50X1 [ ] there were relocations of the old and politically unreliable city inhabitants to villages in order to provide housing for workers. People on pensions were moved to border areas to occupy houses vacated by the deported Germans. [ ] landowners and owners of small enterprises who protested nationalization were also transplanted to small villages. This caused many people to become anti-Communist. [ ]

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Security Forces

16. [ ] operational methods of the Czechoslovak security forces. [ ] were well organized and did not [ ] have many difficulties in quelling any disturbances. [ ] for the most part security forces were made up of Communist Party members who joined voluntarily and Party members who were drafted under government legislation which insured the exclusion of the politically unreliable in the security forces.

17. [ ] the morale of the security forces personnel was excellent. [ ] they were very loyal to the government and were most willing Party members. [ ] personnel of the StB were fanatic Communists who did their work with a vengeance. On the other hand [ ] members of the PS (Pohranicni straz - Border Guard) were usually people who could be easily led.

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Estimates of Resistance Potential

18. [ ] most of the people would show their anti-Communism openly if given a chance. [ ]

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50X1 [ ] about 60% of the Czechoslovak people would be classed as being entirely unfriendly to the régime.

Popular Support of Advancing Allied Forces

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[redacted] any aid given to the population by advancing Allied forces to help the people liquidate security-forces personnel would have to be in such large amounts that it would practically involve the use of an entire army. The people of Czechoslovakia were forbidden to own arms and the Czechoslovak Army would have to be won over in order for any revolt to be effective. Approaching armies would be a big factor in bringing about such a move, but the people would have to be given material aid if the move were to develop successfully. [redacted] the population would definitely aid approaching Allied forces. However [redacted] a large part of the answer would be supplied by the stand taken by the Czechoslovak Army in the situation.

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